

The Honorable Sonny Perdue Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We want to thank you for the hard work and long hours you and your team at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) are putting in to help support the agriculture industry across the country during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our farmers and ranchers are doing everything they can to keep our nation fed during this difficult time, and we know you are doing all you can to help reduce the harm that the current crisis is causing for them.

Congress recently passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and in that bill Congress provided \$14 billion to replenish the Commodity Credit Corporation. It also assigned \$9.5 billion to the USDA to provide “support for agricultural producers impacted by coronavirus, including producers of specialty crops, producers that supply local food systems, including farmers markets, restaurants, and schools, and livestock producers, including dairy producers.”

Since passage of the CARES Act the need for the federal government to step in and help has only increased. While no sector of the economy is immune to the COVID-19 pandemic, the dairy market is on the verge of collapse, and without your swift action, it is in danger of never fully recovering. In short, dairy farmers need your support immediately.

We write today to request that you use the authority given to you by Congress to quickly act to save the dairy industry. We recognize that much of rural America requires your attention at this time, but we ask that you work with the dairy industry in particular to keep milk on our families’ tables and prevent an unnecessary market collapse.